

This completes the formal portion of the historic walking tour. We invite you to stay as long as you'd like, stop in and ask questions of our friendly staff, and revisit those areas you found especially interesting. We hope your trip with us back in time revealed some of the differences and similarities between the past and present and provided enhanced insight into life during the 1800's in the vicinity of what is now Susquehanna State Park.

Maryland Historic Trust. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

<http://www.mdihp.net/>

Shagena, J. L. ROCK RUN MILL in *The Land of Promise*— A legacy of John Stump "of Stafford". InstantPublisher.com, 2007.

Rock Run Historic Area Hours of Operation

Weekends from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend

Toll House: 10am - 6pm

Mill: 10am - 6pm Demonstrations from 1pm - 4pm

Mansion: 1pm - 4pm Tours roughly every half an hour

Susquehanna State Park

4122 Wilkinson Rd

Havre de Grace, MD 21903

Phone: (410) 734 - 9035

Email: park-susquehanna@dnr.maryland.gov



State Forest and Park Service

1-800-830-3974—TTY users call via MD Relay

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Martin O'Malley, Governor



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Susquehanna State Park

Self-guided Walking Tour of Rock Run Historic Area



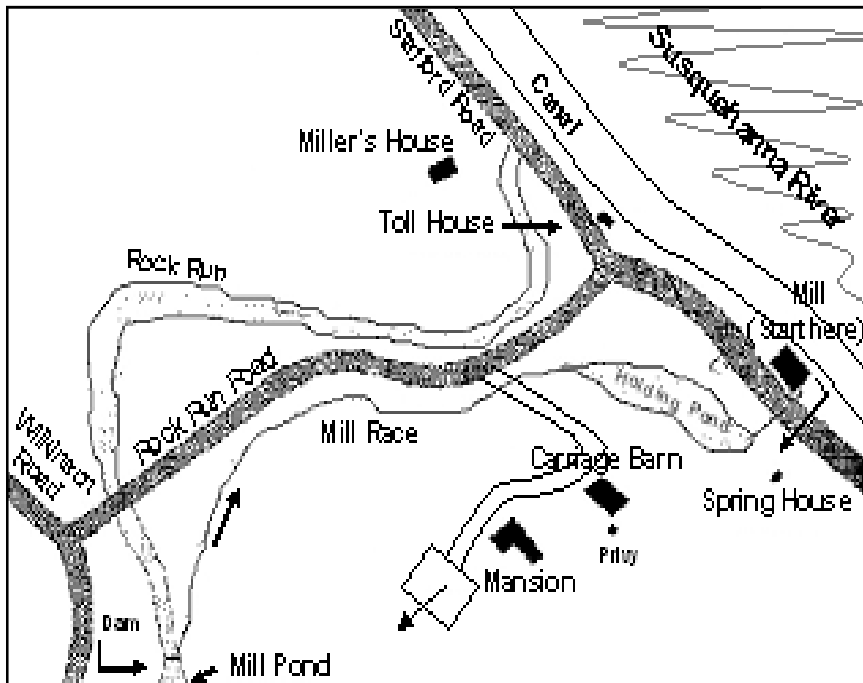
Rock Run Mill, Susquehanna State Park, Havre de Grace, MD

INTRODUCTION

Rock Run Historic Area is historically important to the development of present day Harford County. As you walk this historical trail, reflect on the past. Be conscious of the tremendous efforts made in construction and the quality and craftsmanship of these structures. Keep in mind the absence of mechanized equipment at the time and remember that many of the structures you see were built by hand.

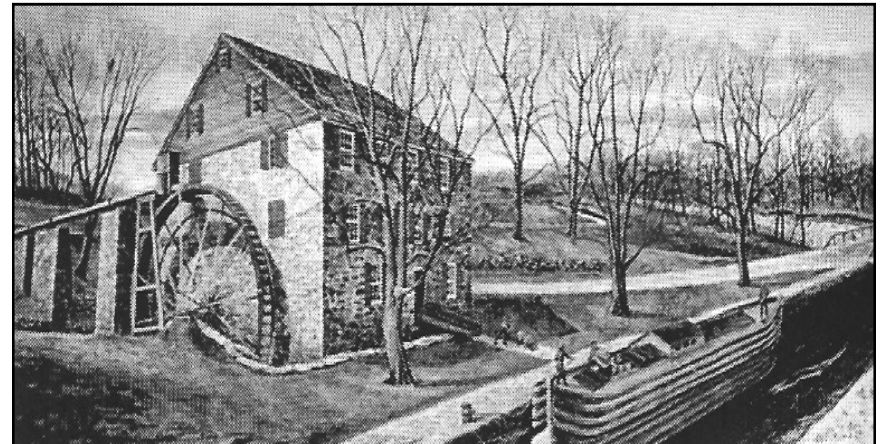
DIRECTIONS

Begin at the Mill and follow the purple blaze to each numbered historical location. Stop and read about the location from your brochure as the history that surrounds you unfolds. This trail will take you approximately 45 minutes to complete.



visible today and many of these stones weigh in excess of one ton. A lock can be seen in the canal just north of the Lapidum Boat Launch as well as just south of the bridge where Deer Creek meets the Susquehanna River.

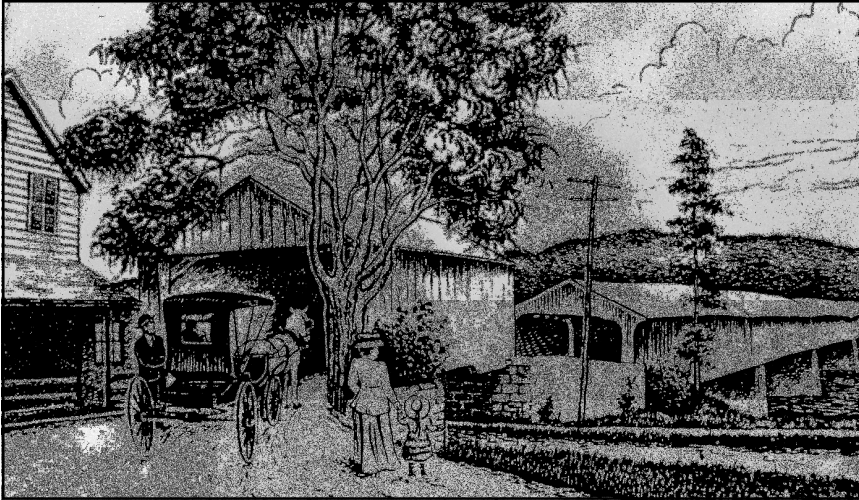
A boat progressing up river would be pulled into a lock by mule teams of three or four. The gates behind the boat would be closed and water allowed to rise until it reached the required depth. This process was repeated 29 times during the voyage. In 1889, a flood did so much damage to the canal that it was put out of business for several weeks. From that date on, the operation company suffered a financial decline. In the early 1900's, this once flourishing trade route faded into history.



The sketch depicts the usefulness the canal had to the Mill. It made transporting materials and products easier as the boats on the canal could be loaded or unloaded at the Mill rather than Lapidum or Stafford and then again transported by road to the Mill.

Steppingstone Museum is a private, nonprofit organization located within the park focusing on Harford County in the late 1800s to early 1900s. With numerous farming and arts and crafts displays, Steppingstone is great for a family outing. More information including pricing, tour information and operations information can be found on their webpage.
Phone: 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762

well documented. However, when Wilkinson bought the Mill and its many properties, he had a prominent fishing business in the 1940's at Rock Run. He hired a man to maintain his business who lived in the Toll House while Wilkinson resided in the Mansion.



Although there are no known images of the Toll House and Rock Run Bridge, this sketch of the Conowingo Bridge and Toll House give insight to how they would have appeared.

9. SUSQUEHANNA TIDEWATER CANAL

This relatively insignificant ditch represents the remnants of the once important Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal which extended from Havre de Grace, MD to Wrightsville, PA, a distance of 45 miles. Upon initial operation in 1840, the canal was 15-20 feet wide with a depth of 6-12 feet. The canal was built with 29 locks which raised the water level from 20 feet at Havre de Grace to 1000 feet above sea level at Wrightsville.

The locks were constructed of granite, each being about 150 feet long by 18 feet wide. Nine of these locks are located in Maryland with three situated in the park. Some of the stone work is still

1. ROCK RUN GRIST MILL

The Rock Run Mill was built by John Stump “of Stafford” (John Stump III) and in operation by 1800. A prosperous business man, Stump owned several mills in Harford, Cecil, and Baltimore Counties along with numerous plots of land in the area. Following his death in 1816, the Mill and surrounding lands passed into the Archer family by way of Stump’s daughter Ann who married Dr. John Archer Jr. The Mill passed from the Archers to John Macklem in 1904 then onto Wilford Wilkinson in 1929. The Mill was operational until 1954 when Wilford Wilkinson passed. The Maryland Department of Forest and Parks bought the land 6 years later and after renovations, the Mill was again operational for public demonstrations in 1965.



Photo 1: Rock Run Mill c. 1930's

The mill was completely refurbished at the turn of the century. The original Fitz Water Wheel, state of the art at the time, was installed in 1900. It was first replaced in 1964 then again in 2007. With 84 buckets, it weighs about 12 tons. The water filling the

buckets rotates the wheel which in turn, through a system of belts, pulleys and gears, operates the millstone which grinds the corn. A grain grinding millstone, similar to the one inside Rock Run Mill, is located across the street. The entrance to the Mill is flanked on both sides by flint grinding millstones. Prior to the Fitz Water Wheel, the wheel would have been wooden and the Mill would have been provided light by candles and the building's 34 windows. Due to the combustibility of the flour dust, milling was done in daylight hours to ensure the dust did not come in contact with candle flame.

During its operation, the mill served as the center of activity for the community allowing the local people to buy, sell and barter. The Mill proved an excellent location for the local post office from 1827-1856. It was located on the second floor of the building to avoid annual flooding. The mail windows and boxes still remain in place.

2. SPRING HOUSE

Constructed between 1801 and 1804, the main purpose of the spring house was to provide drinking water for the Rock Run Mansion. Because refrigeration as we know it did not exist, the spring house also served as cold storage for foods that spoil easily. Perishable items were placed in sealed containers and submerged in the 50°F water. Although this water isn't as cold as our refrigerators, it served its purpose in extending the life of the items. Place your hand in the water and feel the effectiveness of this method.

The spring house is a two story structure with the second floor being accessed around the back of the building on the hillside. The second floor allowed storage for items that benefited from a moist environment. Planks would have been laid from the hillside to the access point.

Directly down from the spring house at the road is a stone

the bushel.

According to oral history, in the mid 1800's when the canal was in operation, the Miller's House doubled as an inn for travelers along the road and the canal.



Photo 6: Miller's House

8. TOLL HOUSE

In 1808, the first bridge to span the Susquehanna River in Maryland was proposed and construction began in 1817. With the construction of a new bridge came tolls. The Toll House was constructed for the toll keeper as a residence and location to collect the tolls from bridge travelers. Notice the porch of the wooden building and the window located in the wall. The window was used by the toll keeper to watch for boats coming down the canal as bridge travelers were entering and exiting the bridge. The bridge was washed away in 1856 and the toll keeper was no longer needed. More information about the bridge can be found on the Toll House porch.

The state and purpose of the Toll House after that point is not

6. MILL RACE

In order for the water released from the Mill Pond to reach the Mill itself, a “race” was constructed to control the water flow to the target location. The Mill Race is a man-made stream that allows the water to flow from the dam through the culvert at the driveway to the Mansion onto a large dip in the lawn. This “dip” is known as the holding pond. The water from the Mill Race accumulates in the holding pond then travels through the forebay (iron pipe) and exits onto the wheel’s buckets, turning the wheel.



Photo5: Mill Dam c. 2010

7. MILLER’S HOUSE

This stone house, built around the same time as the Mill, was where the Miller of the Rock Run Mill resided. The Miller was not necessarily the owner of the Mill but he was the Mill operator. For use of his services, he would take his “pottle,” or fee, from each bushel ground which was approximately 1/8th of

engraved with “IN MEMORY OF JOSHUA COWGILL SMITH 1857-1911.” This stone is actually a trough, now embedded in the earth, which housed the water that ran through the spring house. This trough was available for all to enjoy. The stone was added to the area when Macklem was the Mill owner.



Photo 2: Spring House and Trough c. 2010

3. CARRIAGE BARN



Photo 3: Carriage Barn c. 1930’s

There were different uses for this two story barn throughout the years. It was built into the hillside to provide direct access to the second floor where the food was kept for the animals housed on the first floor. Stalls once occupied the area where the present day restrooms are located. Later, carriages were housed in the lower level while farm equipment and tools were stored up above.

4. **ROCK RUN MANSION ALSO KNOWN AS THE CARTER-ARCHER MANSION**

John Stump “of Stafford” sold 2 plots of land and $\frac{1}{2}$ interest of the Mill and all the affiliated properties in 1801 to John Carter, former husband of Hannah Stump. In 1804, on the newly purchased land, John Carter built the Mansion. However, when Carter died in 1805 his share of the mill and the land, including the Mansion, was sold in its entirety back to John Stump in 1808. Upon his death in 1816, Stump left his daughter Ann and her husband, Dr. John Archer Jr. the 1808 land purchase. The property remained in the Archer family until 1904 when it was purchased by John Macklem.



Photo 4: Rock Run Mansion c. 1880's

The L-shaped house contains thirteen rooms and 4 chimneys to accommodate the large family. There are multiple living and dining rooms to distinguish between the formal and family areas. The kitchen was not originally built into the home as it is seen today. According to a local historical architect, the structure was added on within five years of the homes construction. The oven and boiler within the kitchen are unique in that both pieces have individual flues and there are only two of these particular ovens (this one included) are known in the state of Maryland, serving as a testament to the wealth of the family. Above the kitchen are small living quarters that housed the servants of the home.

Down the hill, a small stone building erected at the rear of the carriage barn is the 1800's version of a lavatory. This out house in particular is termed a “3-holer” as it was constructed with 3 toilet locations, all of different sizes to accommodate different body frames.

Further down the hill, diagonally across from the Mill, is the former site of the Smoke House. The smoke house was used as a location to smoke fish and has been relocated to Steppingstone Museum on Quaker Bottom Road (see end of tour for more information).

5. **MILL POND**

In 1794, when John Stump purchased the land on which the Mill resides, he knew he would need access to water in order to power the Mill. However, it wasn't until 1797 when he purchased 256 acres of land surrounding Rock Run that he had the means to do so. He constructed a dam which produced the Mill Pond.

Having an abundant reserve of water, such as the pond, is necessary for daily Mill operations. When the dam gate is opened, it allows the accumulated water to flow into the Mill Race to power the Mill.